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STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for

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F.W.Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Univ.Edin.)
Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Field and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the Startforth Rural District for the year ended 31st December, 1953.

The mid-year population as estimated by the Registrar General was 4878 an increase of 576 on that for the year 1952.

The vital statistics may be considered to be very satisfactory, the birth rate was very similar to that for 1952 and once again we record no maternal deaths; and there were no infantile deaths during the year.

The death rate is lower than that for England and Wales and is also lower than in 1952; and in this connection 12 deaths were in the 65/75 age group and 23 over 75 years of age. The principal causes of death were heart disease (18) and cancer (8) and there were two deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

Measles was epidemic during the early months of 1953 and accounted for 88 of the 110 cases of infectious diseases notified during the year. It is very pleasing to record no new notifications of Tuberculosis in the district during 1953.

Successful vaccinations numbered 33 of which number 17 were in the 0-5 years group which cannot be regarded as satisfactory considering the number of births (73) in the year, especially in view of the present era of fast long-distance travel it is possible for smallpox infection to reach this country from infected places abroad in a matter of a few days. Whilst the vigilance of the authorities at seaports and airports is our main defence against smallpox; should a loophole occur then individual susceptibility is tested. The answer is obvious - vaccination.

Diphtheria has been virtually abolised owing to the complete success of artificial immunisation and 205 children completed a course of immunisation during the year. It is only by immunisation that this very dangerous disease can remain conquered.

The number of visits of domiciliary midwifery was 1513 compared with 1395 in the previous year, the number of Home Nursing visits 3532 compared with 2806 in 1952 and the number of Health Visits 2453 compared with 3390 last year.

The public health work of the District has been carried out as usual and I would like to thank your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Ashcroft, for his kind co-operation at all times and my clerical staff for their constant help and conscientious work.

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health: F.W.Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector: Mr. T. Ashcroft, C.R.S.I., Ass.M.Inst.San.Engs.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District in acres, ...	97,630
Resident Population, mid-year estimate,...	4,878
Number of inhabited houses, ...	1,405
Rateable value at 1st April, 1953, ...	£50,507
Sum reprsented by a penny rate, ...	£207
Rate in £ levied at 1st April,1953, ...	20/-

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of live births registered during the year was 73, as against 70 in 1952. The birth rate comparisons shows that the rate for the District is less than that for the rest of England and Wales.

Birth Rate Comparisons. (Per 1,000 estimated population)

	Live Births.	Still Births.
Startforth Rural District,1952	16.27	.67
Startforth Rural District,1953	14.97	Nil
England and Wales, 1953	15.50	.35

Analysis of Births.

	Live Births				Still Births.			
	1952		1953		1952		1953	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Legitimate,	38	30	40	31	1	2	.	.
Illegitimate,	1	1	1	1	.	.	.	.

DEATHS. Maternal Mortality. Again, as in the past five years there was no case of a woman dying in, or in consequence of child-birth in the District; this compares very favourably with the maternal mortality rate for the rest of England and Wales, which, for 1953 was .76 per 1,000 total births.

Infantile Mortality. No child under one year died during 1953. The rate for England and Wales being 26.8

Infantile Mortality Comparisons. per 1,000 live births.

Startforth Rural District 1952	14.28
Startforth Rural District, 1953	00.00
England and Wales, 1953	26.8

Deaths from all causes. During 1953 there were 51 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 52 in 1952: This shows a lower rate than that for the rest of the country: 1952 and 1951 both showing a less favourable comparison. It is noted that 18 were in the 55/75 age group and 23 in the over 75 years age group.

Deaths rates comparisons. Death Rate per 1,000 population.

Startforth Rural District 1952, ...	12.09
Startforth Rural District 1953, ...	10.46
England and Wales, 1953, ...	11.40

Causes of all Deaths and Sexes.	1953 M.	1953 F.	1952 M.	1952 F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory,	.	2	.	.
Malignant neoplasm, stomach,	.	1	.	.
-"- -"- lung, bronchus,	1	.	.	.
-"- -"- breast,	.	.	.	2
-"- -"- uterus,	.	2	.	.
Other malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms,	1	3	3	3
Diabetes,	1	1	.	.
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System,	3	3	2	5
Coronary disease, angina,	3	1	5	3
Hypertension with heart disease,	.	.	.	2
Other heart diseases,	6	8	6	11
Other circulatory disease,	2	4	.	.
Influenza,	1	1	.	.
Pneumonia,	.	.	.	2
Bronchitis,	2	.	.	1
Other diseases of respiratory system,	1	.	.	.
Nephritis and Nephrosis,	.	.	1	.
Other define and ill-defined diseases,	.	2	2	3
All other accidents,	.	2	.	1
Totals.	21	30	19	33

Ages at Death - from all causes.	1952	1953
From birth to one day, ...	.	.
From one day to one week, ...	1	.
Under one year, ...	1	.
From 1 to 25 years, ...	1	1
From 25 to 55 years, ...	4	9
From 55 to 65 years, ...	9	6
From 65 to 75 years, ...	13	12
Over 75 years, ...	24	23
Totals	52	51

Number of Deaths from the Seven Chief Causes and Comparisons with the previous year.

No. of Deaths 1953	No. of Deaths 1952	Causes of Death.	Rate per 1000 pop. 1953	Rate per 1000 pop. 1952
8	8	Cancer, ...	1.64	1.86
5	3	Respiratory (not Tuberculosis),	1.02	.70
18	27	Heart Disease, ...	3.70	6.28
2	.	Tuberculosis - Pulmonary,...	.41	.00
.	.	Tuberculosis - Non pulmonary,	.00	.00
6	.	Other Circulatory Diseases,	1.23	.00
6	7	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System,	1.23	1.62
45	45	Totals	9.23	10.46

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There were 110 cases of notifiable diseases reported during 1953, due to an epidemic of measles during February - April and an increase in Whooping Cough, as against 25 cases in 1952.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Analysis and Comparisons with 1952		1953	1952
Meningococcal Infection,	....	1	.
Scarlet Fever,	....	6	2
Acute Pneumonia,	....	.	1
Erysipelas,	....	1	.
Food poisoning,	....	.	1
Whooping Cough,	....	14	7
Measles,	....	88	12
Malaria,	....	.	1
Chicken Pox,	....	.	1
Totals.		110	25

TUBERCULOSIS. There were no new notifications of Tuberculosis during the year, compared with two in 1952.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. There were two deaths from this cause during the year, as against no deaths in the years 1950, 1951 and 1952.

	Age.	Sex	1953	1952
Pulmonary, T/B	44	F	1	Nil
-"-	61	F	1	Nil

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS. Records received show that there were 33 vaccinations carried out during the year, as against 28 in 1952. 205 immunisations were carried out during the year, as against 30 in 1952.

Comparisons and Age Groups of Vaccinations and Immunisations.

	1953		1952	
	0-5 years	over 5	0-5 years	over 5
Successful Vaccinations,	17	16	20	8
Completed Course of Immunisation,	45	160	23	7

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT 1946

Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
Section 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.
Section 24. Health Visiting.
Section 25. Home Nursing.

Four District Nurse/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above four sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District, - at Barningham, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and which is attended by a local practitioner and the District Nurse/Midwife for that area; full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

Number of visits paid to the patients by the District Nurse/Midwives during 1952 under the following categories, and compared with the same categories for 1952.

Category.	1953	1952
Domiciliary Midwifery,	1513	1395
Home Nursing,	3532	2806
Health Visiting,	2453	3390

Section 27. Ambulance Service. The North Riding County Council provide this service by arrangement with the St.John's Ambulance Brigade, who have three vehicles stationed at Richmond and, with the Hospital Car Service, under the jurisdiction of the Women's Voluntary Service. These two services adequately cover Richmond Borough and the Rural Districts of Richmond, Croft and Startforth and Reeth.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, Inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors, and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Section 29. Domestic Help Service. This service is provided by arrangement with the North Riding County Council, and during 1953 six cases received help, as compared with five cases in 1952, the analysis and comparison being as follows:

Category.	1953		1952	
	Cases	Hours	Cases	Hours.
Domiciliary Confinement,	5	357½	3	295
Chronic Sick,	Nil	-	1	172½
Sick Housewife,	1	21½	1	30
Totals.	6	379½	5	497½

Section 51. Mental Health. No Committee in the Area and no case arose during 1953 - as in 1952.

Dental Service. This service is provided by arrangement with the County Council.

National Assistance Act 1948. Section 47. No cases removed during the year.

The remainder of this report was compiled by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. T. Ashcroft.

Total number of inspections for nuisances only,	156
Total number of nuisances found,	78
Total number of Statutory Notices served,	Nil
Total number of Informal Notices served,	10

Rural Housing Survey.

Number of houses surveyed,	104
Satisfactory in all respects,	12
Minor defects,	28
Repairs or structural alterations,	53
Suitable for Housing (Rural Workers) Acts,	8
Unfit,	3

The Rural Housing Advisory Committee asked during November last for the Survey to be completed as early as possible. This is having my attention.

Public Cleansing. Scavenging is in operation in all Parishes and only outlying premises are not served. The removal of refuse from Deerbolt Camp is also undertaken. Two Karrier Scavenging Vehicles are in use with two men on each. Refuse is deposited on tips at Barningham, Rokeby and Mickleton. These tips are semi-controlled.

Infectious Diseases. Five cases were notified and premises occupied by pa tients were fumigated.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948. There are 25 premises on the register. Inspections have been made with regard to cleanliness, sanitary conveniences, temperature and ventilation.

Number of inspections made,	27
Number of defects found,	3
Number of defects remedied,	3

Inspection and supervision of food. Nineteen shops are registered, all of which are general stores. Seven of these are licensed to store ice-cream for sale.

Fifteen inspecti ons of food premises were made, no unsatisfactory conditions were found.

One milk dealer is registered, most of the area being served by producer-retailers.

No food has been condemned during the year. The method of disposal of condemned food would vary on the quantity.

Moveable Dwellings. Licences have been issued to 5 persons to station a caravan on land occupied by them. There is one licensed camping site at the Lendings, Startforth and an unlicensed site at the Mill Field, Startforth. This latter has been under close observation during the year. No nuisance was found and the number of days of camping allowed without a licence was not exceeded.

Sewerage. The new scheme of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal at Mickleton was commenced during April. The Disposal Works are now almost completed and a total length of 1900 yards of sewers has been laid. Mr. Fairbank, the Consultant Engineer, state that the whole scheme will be completed early in 1954.

The Sewarage Works at Bowes, Barningham and Startforth are obsolete and the works at Romaldkirk requires reconditioning. It is practically impossible to get a satisfactory final effluent from these works.

During the year the Wear and Tees River Board have taken eight samples of final effluent from these works and none hav been satisfactory. Four samples taken from the modern Cotherstone Works have all been up to standard.

The Parishes of Boldron, Lartington, Ovington and Hutton Magna have no sewers or disposal works. Schemes were put forward for all these Parishes but all with the exception of Ovington were turned down at the Ministry of Health inquiry in 1948 because the cost per house was more than the figure allowed by the Treasury.

Water Supply. The Tees Valley Water Board supply water to the Parishes of Mickleton, Romaldkirk, Cotherstone, Lartington and Barforth. The Parish of Startforth is supplied by the Barnard Castle U.D.C. The source of supply being springs in our area.

The Council have their own undertakings in the Parishes of Bowes, Boldron, Barningham, Hutton Magna and Ovington.

Water supplied from Public Undertakings in the area has been satisfactory (a) in quality with the exception of the Startforth supply which has been found to be contaminated on occasion, (b) in quantity with the exception of the Ovington and Boldron supplies. The supply from the well at Ovington has so diminished that it is now insufficient for the needs of the population. Negotiations are going on with the Tees Valley Water Board to supply water to this Parish. There was a shortage of water at Boldron during the summer drought. This was remedied by repairs at the reservoir and by replacing the old-fashioned stand-pipes with taps.

Five bacteriological samples were taken from public supplies in the district, all were satisfactory except a sample taken from the Startforth Supply. The water in the area does not have plumbo-solvent action.

The following is a list of premises supplied from Public Undertakings:-

	Direct to house	By stand-pipe
Barningham,	26	31
Boldron,	8	16
Bowes	78	-
Cotherstone,	104	-
Hutton Magna,	3	29
Lartington,	33	-
Mickleton,	71	-
Ovington,	40	-
Romaldkirk,	55	-
Startforth,	110	-

Rodent Control.

Domestic Premises treated	14
Farms surveyed,	44
Farms treated,	9
Man-holes baited,	150
Local Authorities Properties treated,	6